

**LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

**“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”**

**TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”**

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**EPISODE TEN: “Truth first, then reconciliation”**

**List of characters by scenes:**

**Narrator (m/f, 30-50)**

**SCENE ONE: FOREST MEETING BETWEEN TORUBES AND KIMBEBES**

- Lawi (m, 20)
- Waliani (m, 75)
- several women break down in tears and wailing (at least 4)
- at least 3 men

**SCENE TWO: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO ON THE RUN**

- Matonge (m, 65)
- Somba (m, 55)
- Kero (f, 55)

### **SCENE THREE: RITUAL CLEANSING AT A SACRED STREAM**

- **Waliani (m, 75)**
- **Mixed crowd (at least 5 ppl)**

### **SCENE FOUR: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO FLYING TO THE HAGUE**

- **Matonge (m, 65)**
- **Somba (m, 55)**
- **Kero (f, 55)**

### **SCENE FIVE: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO FLYING TO THE HAGUE**

- **Waliani ( m, 75)**
- **Masambo (m, 50)**
- **Mixed crowd (at least 5 ppl)**

#### **Narrator**

#### **INTRO:**

Hallo and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the tenth and last episode of our conflicts and resolutions series, titled, “**The ways of our fathers**”. In the previous episode, President Matonge and his henchmen Somba and Kero were summoned by the International Criminal Court. But they chose to flee into exile. Meanwhile, a community healing and reconciliation meeting between the Torubes and Kimbebes was about to start deep in the forest, led by elder Waliani,. Let's see how it all ends in today's episode entitled, “**Truth first, then reconciliation**”. We start off in the forest where the two rival tribes had gathered for reconciliation.

## **SCENE ONE: FOREST MEETING BETWEEN TORUBES AND KIMBEBES**

### **1. SFX: FOREST AMBIENCE**

**2. WALIANI:**           **(sings a short sad prayerful song)** Our God, we pray to you, Our forefathers, we call upon you, in this time of pain, anguish and tears. We ask for your guidance, to lead us into peace, truth and reconciliation. Let the songs of our hearts begin!

### **3. (women humming and dancing and clapping)**

**4. WALIANI:**           This ceremony will be long, and painful because great offenses were committed, innocent blood spilled, many were rendered homeless after their houses were burnt down. So first, I would like us all to sit down in a circle, so that we can all see each other. Then let's start the fire in the center of the circle.

### **5. SFX: FIRE STARTING TO BURN WITH PAPER AND FIREWOOD**

**6. WALIANI:**           Anyone in need of forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation, should come next to the fire, kneel down, or lie prostrate as a sign of humility. Then confess before those you offended and seek the forgiveness of the victims. Then we shall proceed. Let's keep singing as men search their hearts.

**(Singing continues in background by women)**

- 7. LAWI:**                   **(remorseful)** I will start, because I led the invasion, My name is Lawi, I was in the front line.
- 8. (several women break down in tears and wailing, then only sobs are left)**
- 9. LAWI:**                   **(also in tears)** Your leader Dere took several heads of cattle, while I was grazing my father’s cattle but spared my life. I vowed, I told my..**(pause)**
- 10. WALIANI:**           It's okay, my son, just tell it all. True confession is the first step to true healing and forgiveness.
- 11. LAWI:**                I told myself, I would have no peace until I returned my father's cattle that had been forcefully taken away. So when a man from the government came and gave us guns, I knew this was it. The time for revenge had come.
- 12. WALIANI:**           Why do you think, the Torubes were given guns? You have lived many years without guns! Did you really need them? The same question is for you, Kimbebe people. Remember, force can win a war, but not peace. Go on Lawi.

- 13. LAWI:** The first time I held a gun, all I thought about, was killing the Kimbebe people. I was driven by hate, but did not mean to harm or kill anyone. I ordered the others not to shoot at the innocent. I am very, very sorry. For the husbands whose wives were killed, mothers who lost their children, children who have lost their parents. Forgive me!
- 14. (Crowd responds in a chorus, “We forgive you because of God and our ancestors who call on us to forgive”)**
- 15. LAWI:** **(Breaks down in tears)** Thank you, thank you.
- 16. WALIANI:** It is important to bring out the details of who did what and to whom, no matter how painful and hard it might be. Only then can we release ourselves from the chains of hate, guilt and bitterness. We shall be here for some days, so please take your time. **(calls out)**  
Next!
- 17. NARRATOR:** One by one, those who committed acts of murder and other atrocities came out and confessed, repenting, weeping, and sometimes covering their faces with the ash from the fire. It was a long painful, emotional process. After the Torubes came the Kimbebes. The community healing and reconciliation process took two days, then all the people were gathered for a cleansing ceremony. But first, let's catch up on Matonge, Somba, and Kero. Three people wanted by the ICC and now on the run.

**SCENE TWO: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO ON THE RUN**

**18. SFX: TRUCK BEING DRIVEN ON A ROUGH ROAD**

**19. MATONGE:** How far still, until we reach the border?

**20. SOMBA:** Almost there, your exce..ah I forgot, you are not the president anymore. **(laughs)**

**21. KERO:** Somba, don't be mean. Matonge made you the military chief; you should be grateful.

**22. MATONGE:** How fast things can change. One minute I was in state house, the next I am being driven in an old truck on the road to nowhere!

**23. SOMBA:** Trust me it is better than the shame of going through public and international attention with this case.

**24. SFX: BULLETS BEING FIRED FROM SEVERAL GUNS**

**25. MATONGE:** **(terrified)** What is going on? Who is shooting at us?

**26. SOMBA:** Drive faster, Kero! Kero, faster!

**27. SFX: TRUCK DRIVEN FASTER**

**28. KERO:** I am trying. I am trying my best!

**29. MATONGE:** **(Breathing heavily)** Somba, Kero, who were those people shooting at an army truck?

**30. SOMBA:** That is another tribe that we armed in the previous election which you won.

**31. MATONGE:** **(shocked)** What? Are you telling me, that every citizen in this country now owns a rifle? That is a recipe for a civil war.

**32. KERO:** Yes, it's a good thing we are getting out at the right time.

**33. SOMBA:** **(relieved)** Ah finally, there is the border. I will have to talk to my soldiers, so they can let us pass through.

**34. SFX: TRUCK COMES TO A HALT**

**35. NARRATOR:** What the three did not know, is that as soon as they had fled, a manhunt in search of them was underway. They were arrested by the border patrol soldiers, and then sent back to the city to await charges for abusing their positions, and pending investigations for causing ethnic clashes. The international criminal court was also waiting for them. But let's go back to the forest, to a sacred stream, where the ritual ceremony to cleanse the offenders had begun.

### **SCENE THREE: RITUAL CLEANSING AT A SACRED STREAM**

**36. WALIANI:**                   **(praying)** Our great ancestors, for two days and two nights, we have cried, and repented, and now as I throw these grains of rice into this sacred stream, may the evil be taken away. And just as we will never see those grains again, may we never see this kind of evil again.

**37. SFX: GRAINS FALLING ON A STREAM**

**38. WALIANI:**                   Evil has been defeated. All people are cleansed!

**39. SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE AND CELEBRATION FROM GATHERING**

**40. WALIANI:** Now, I have prepared a special drink, what my forefathers called the “bitter herb”. It will “cool your hearts” and bind you to each other. **(prays)** With this drink, I ask you my ancestors to extinguish all bitterness, and cool the hearts of your people. I ask you to bind them with love.

**41. SFX: SEVERAL PEOPLE SIPPING FROM A DRINK, ONE AFTER THE OTHER (studio)**

**42. NARRATOR:** All the offenders and victims shared the bitter herb in the forest,. Finally, time to face justice at the International Criminal Court, the ICC, had come, for Somba, Matonge and Kero. They were all seated in an aircraft flying to The Hague, with armed guards by their side, hands in chains.

#### **SCENE FOUR: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO FLYING TO THE HAGUE**

**43. SFX: SIGNAL FOR UNFASTENING SEAT BELTS/inside plane atmo**

**(Announcement to unfasten seat belt because plane has reached cruising altitude)**

**44. MATONGE:** **(Annoyed)** Hey! How do you expect us to unfasten our seat belts with our hands tied? I was a former president!

**45. SOMBA:** Me too!

**46. MATONGE:** You were not the president Somba, I was!

**47. SOMBA:** I was talking about the seat belts.

**48. KERO:** Shut up you two, sit back and enjoy the flight. It may be the last time you get to fly anywhere.

**49. MATONGE:** Why? I know I am going to be found innocent.

**50. KERO:** **(sarcastic laugh)** If you are innocent, then I must be the Pope himself! Life imprisonment is what we are all facing.

**51. NARRATOR:** One thing is certain though. No crime goes unpunished, or unreconciled. Back in the forest, many people had volunteered to disarm, and a mountain of assorted weapons was piling up. Waliani was about to finish the ceremony.

## **SCENE FIVE: LIBATIONS FOR THE ANCESTORS IN THE FOREST**

**52. WALIANI:** As we near the end of our ceremony. Time has come, to slaughter an animal and pour libations to our ancestors. To thank them for being with us, and ask them to protect these two communities that have been reconciled.

**53. MASAMBO:** Elder Waliani, all the stories have humbled me. Twice I have seen that we can find peace and reconciliation by looking at our traditions. So I will provide from my flock, not one, not two but three cows! For the libations, and for people to eat!

**54. SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE AND CELEBRATION FROM GATHERING**

**55. WALIANI:** As you wish Masambo, as you wish. It is probably the right time to go back to the ways of our fathers.

## **OUTRO**

That brings us to the end of our conflicts and resolutions radio drama. You were listening to a Deutsche Welle, Learning by Ear production. Our author was the famous Kenyan puppeteer Chrispin Mwakideu. We hope you enjoyed it.

Be a part of Learning by Ear, by visiting our website at [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). And while there, you can listen to more series, give comments and share your experiences. Until we meet again, Let's foster peace.